

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05398 051334Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EUR-25 EA-11 RSR-01 /148 W

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R 051116Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9898

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: BHUTTO CALLS FOR END TO CONFRONTATION.

REF: ISLAMABAD 5390

SUMMARY: BHUTTO, AT EMBASSY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION, CALLED FOR END TO CONFRONTATION IN SUBCONTINENT AND ASKED SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TOWARD THIS GOAL. PRESIDENT ALSO PRAISED SUCCESSFUL US EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE IN EUROPE AND ASIA. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, MADE IN PRESENCE OF LEADING OPPOSITION FIGURES AND US NEWS-MEN, PROBABLY REFLECT HIS DESIRE RESTORE MOMENTUM TO INDO/PAK NEGOTIATIONS ON EVE HIS US VISIT. MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS REASSURANCE THAT LAST-MINUTE POSTPONE-MENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS OF MOVE TO OBTAIN ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR RECOGNITION BANGLADESH DID NOT MARK ANY CHANGE IN GOP POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. GOING BEYOND USUAL PLATITUDES, PRESIDENT BHUTTO USED OCCASION OF HIS TOAST AT CHARGE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY RE-

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05398 051334Z

CEPTION TO ENDORSE US MOVES TOWARD DETENTE IN EUROPE AND

ASIA AND TO CALL FOR END TO CONFRONTATION AMONG COUNTRIES OF SUBCONTINENT. (FULL TEXT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL.)

2. IN OPENING PORTION HIS REMARKS, PRESIDENT LAUDED US ACHIEVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE HUMANITIES, AND EXPRESSED "ADMIRATION" FOR US POST-WAR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT "WHOLE-SOME DETENTE" IN EUROPE AND ASIA. APPLAUDING RECENT SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS, HE NOTED SUPERIORITY OF DETENTE OVER POLICY OF CONFRONTATION.

3. TURNING TO SUBCONTINENT, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PAKISTAN AND NEIGHBORS COULD EMULATE OTHERS AND ALSO "SEEK DETENTE AND DIALOGUE AND PUT AN END TO CONFRONTATION". HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT INDO/PAK CONFRONTATION EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME BECAUSE IT IS "PERHAPS ... THE OLDEST IN THE WORLD". NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, "MY GOVERNMENT AND MY PEOPLE WILL MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE AND HONORABLE PEACE" AND HE HOPED IN THIS EFFORT TO HAVE COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS THOSE OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY. HE OBSERVED IN THIS REGARD THAT NUMBER OF OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE PRESENT AT RECEPTION; THESE INCLUDED WALI KHAN AND BIZENJO OF NAP, SHAUKAT HYAT OF CML, PROF. GHAFOR AHMAD OF JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI, AND MAULANA NOORANI OF JUP.

4. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WERE PRECEDED BY CHARGE'S TOAST TAKING NOTE OF PRESENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS, STRESSING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO SIMLA PROCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF DURABLE PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT, AND WELCOMING BHUTTO'S FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT TO US.

5. IN ADDITION TO OPPOSITION FIGURES, PRESIDENT'S REMARKS PRESUMABLY ALSO DIRECTED TOWARD VISITING US CORRESPONDENTS, NUMBER OF WHOM HAD COME FROM NEW DELHI AT PRESIDENT'S INVITATION AND WHO WERE PRESENT AT CHARGE'S RECEPTION. HIS REMARKS PROBABLY REFLECT HIS DESIRE TO REAFFIRM PAK DEDICATION TO NEGOTIATION PROCESS ON EVE HIS VISIT TO US AND TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD RESTORATION OF MOMENTUM IN THIS AREA. THEY MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN INTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05398 051334Z

TO REASSURE ALL CONCERNED THAT LAST-MINUTE POSTPONEMENT OF BHUTTO'S INTENDED APPEARANCE BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SEEK STANDBY AUTHORITY TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH (WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR INVITING US CORRESPONDENTS VISIT ISLAMABAD AT THIS TIME) WAS DUE TO GENUINE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION AND DID NOT REFLECT GOP DECISION ONCE AGAIN TO BACK AWAY FROM THIS ISSUE.

6. GOP AND PAK INFO MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. STORY HEADLINED IN JULY 5 PRESS, WITH NUMBER OF PAPERS CARRYING FULL TEXT PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, AND EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS WERE CARRIED ON EVENING RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS JULY 4.
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